IMPERIAL COUNTY ECONOMIC FORECAST

Imperial County is located at the extreme southeastern edge of California, adjacent to San Diego County. It is the home of the Salton Sea, the largest lake in the state. Imperial County has a population of 187,200 people and a total of 63,700 wage and salary jobs. The income per capita is $32,722 and the average salary per worker is $48,014, both of which represent the lowest levels among all Southern California counties.

Imperial County's economy is heavily agricultural. With approximately 11,700 farm workers, the county generates $2 billion of agricultural output each year. Its most prevalent commodities are cattle, alfalfa, broccoli, and lettuce.

The public sector also plays a large role in the region's economy, and with 18,300 workers, it is the county's largest employment sector. A substantial number of the government jobs in Imperial County are related to the two state correctional facilities, which employ a combined total of 2,000 staff and house 7,400 inmates.
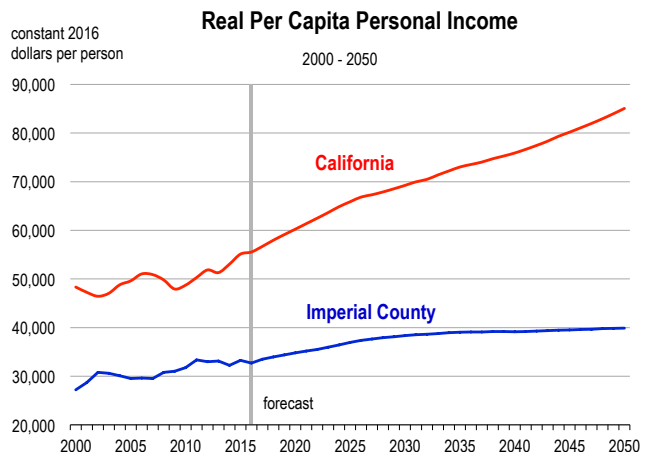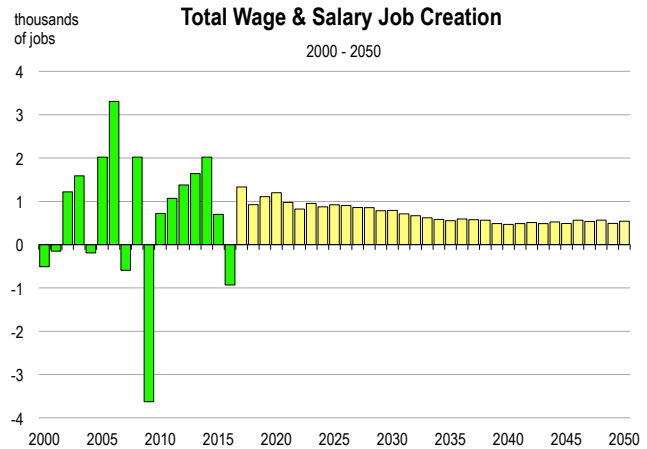
Across Southern California, employment increased by 2.6 percent in 2016. Imperial County lost 930 wage and salary jobs, representing a decline of 1.4 percent. Farm employment decreased by 10.3 percent, while non-farm employment increased by 0.8 percent. The unemployment rate improved slightly, falling from 24.0 percent in 2015 to 23.5 percent in 2016. Despite this improvement, Imperial County still has one of the highest unemployment rates in the state.

In 2016, the largest employment gains were observed in government (+390 jobs), education and healthcare (+350 jobs), and transportation and warehousing (+250 jobs). The largest losses were observed in agriculture (-1,300 jobs), construction (-750 jobs), and wholesale and retail trade (-130 jobs).

Between 2011 and 2016, the Imperial County population grew at an average rate of 1.0 percent per year. This growth was entirely due to the natural increase (new births), as net migration was negative.

FORECAST HIGHLIGHTS

- Total employment is expected to increase by 2.1 percent in 2017. From 2017 to 2022, the growth rate will average 1.5 percent per year. Over the same period, agricultural employment will be relatively unchanged.

- Average salaries are currently well below the California state average, and will remain so over the forecast horizon. Adjusted for inflation, average salaries in Imperial County will rise by an average of 1.4 percent per year from 2017 to 2022.

- The sectors that will create the most jobs between 2017 and 2022 are education and healthcare, government, and wholesale and retail trade. Together, these industries will account for 84 percent of net job creation in the county.

Total Wage & Salary Job Creation

thousands of jobs

2000 - 2050

Real Per Capita Personal Income

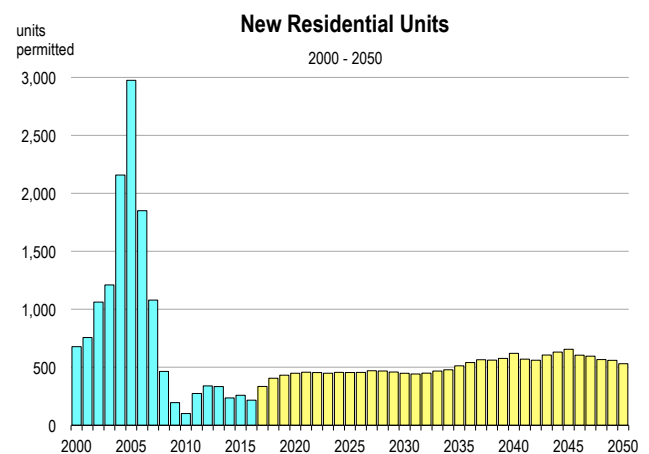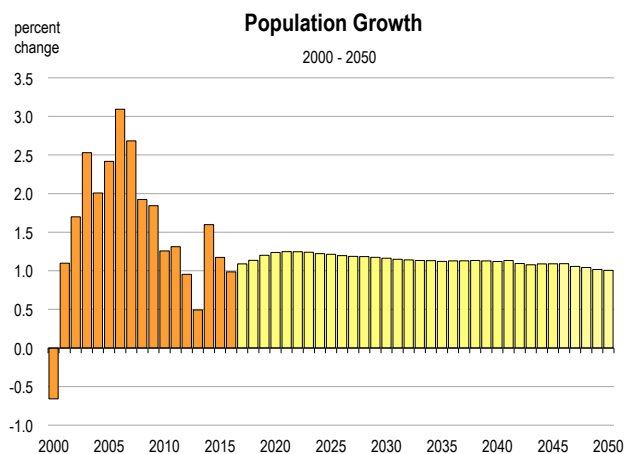constant 2016 dollars per person

2000 - 2050

- The population will grow faster than the statewide average, with countywide growth averaging 1.2 percent per year in the 2017-2022 period.

- Net migration is expected to be positive over the forecast period. Between 2017 and 2022, an average of 270 net migrants will enter the county each year.

- Real income per capita, adjusted for inflation, is projected to increase by 2.4 percent in 2017. Between 2017 and 2022, growth will average 1.2 percent per year.

- Total taxable sales, adjusted for inflation, are expected to increase by an average of 1.9 percent per year between 2017 and 2022.

- Industrial production is expected to increase by 2.6 percent in 2017. From 2017 to 2022, the growth rate of industrial production is expected to average 3.7 percent per year.

- Farm production will to increase by 0.9 percent per year between 2017 and 2022.

Imperial County Economic Forecast
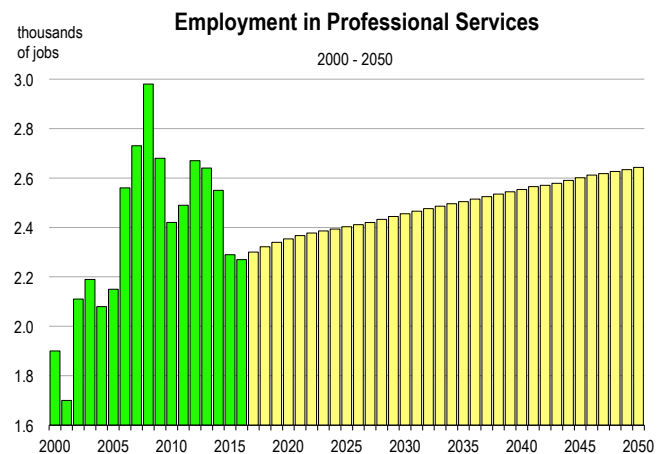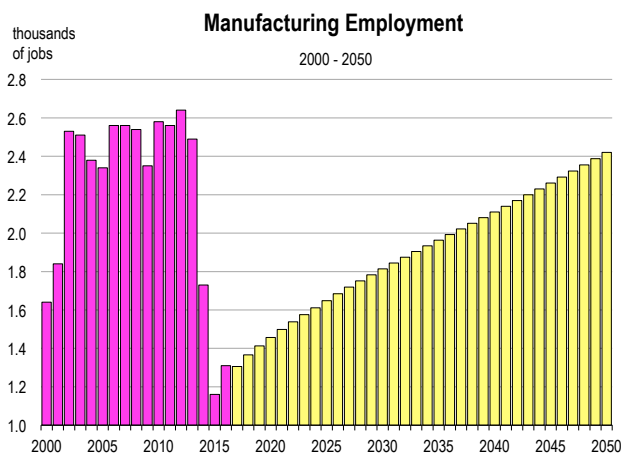## 2010-2016 History, 2017-2050 Forecast

	Population (people)	Net Migration (people)	Registered Vehicles (thousands)	Households (thousands)	New Homes Permitted (homes)	Total Taxable Sales (billions)	Personal Income (billions)	Real Per Capita Income (dollars)	Inflation Rate (% change in CPI)	Real Farm Crop Value (billions)	Real Industrial Production (billions)	Unemployment Rate (percent)
2010	175,418	4	155.8	49.1	102	$1.97	$5.05	$31,778	1.2	1.76	0.88	28.8
2011	177,718	172	157.3	49.2	274	$2.18	$5.51	$33,345	2.7	2.11	0.82	28.9
2012	179,414	-357	160.2	49.2	339	$2.36	$5.62	$32,983	2.0	2.05	0.87	27.4
2013	180,300	-1,142	166.4	49.3	334	$3.66	$5.73	$33,107	1.1	2.25	0.88	25.0
2014	183,179	745	171.5	49.5	236	$2.89	$5.74	$32,243	1.4	1.91	0.72	24.0
2015	185,328	-93	180.7	49.6	258	$2.65	$6.05	$33,269	0.9	1.96	0.60	24.0
2016	187,157	-213	191.6	49.8	217	$2.47	$6.12	$32,722	1.9	2.00	0.68	23.5
2017	189,196	3	195.0	50.1	335	$2.74	$6.50	$33,495	2.5	2.02	0.70	20.9
2018	191,345	98	198.0	50.5	406	$2.88	$6.84	$33,953	2.7	2.04	0.73	19.3
2019	193,643	231	201.0	50.9	432	$3.02	$7.20	$34,368	2.8	2.06	0.75	18.3
2020	196,040	314	204.1	51.3	449	$3.17	$7.59	$34,790	2.9	2.07	0.78	17.8
2021	198,486	352	207.2	51.7	458	$3.31	$7.99	$35,160	2.8	2.09	0.81	17.8
2022	200,962	365	210.0	52.2	454	$3.46	$8.41	$35,517	3.0	2.11	0.84	18.0
2023	203,455	372	213.0	52.6	449	$3.61	$8.85	$35,986	2.6	2.13	0.87	18.3
2024	205,942	356	216.0	53.1	456	$3.77	$9.30	$36,447	2.5	2.15	0.90	18.7
2025	208,442	360	218.9	53.5	455	$3.93	$9.78	$36,962	2.4	2.17	0.93	19.0
2026	210,937	351	221.7	53.9	456	$4.10	$10.23	$37,343	2.3	2.19	0.96	19.3
2027	213,440	356	224.3	54.4	470	$4.27	$10.70	$37,651	2.5	2.21	0.99	19.4
2028	215,968	379	226.9	54.9	468	$4.46	$11.19	$37,912	2.7	2.23	1.03	19.6
2029	218,505	378	229.3	55.3	459	$4.63	$11.64	$38,111	2.3	2.25	1.06	19.7
2030	221,046	378	231.7	55.8	448	$4.81	$12.10	$38,331	2.1	2.27	1.10	19.7
2031	223,587	377	233.9	56.2	442	$4.99	$12.54	$38,512	2.0	2.29	1.14	19.8
2032	226,138	382	236.0	56.6	450	$5.19	$12.98	$38,607	2.1	2.32	1.18	19.9
2033	228,702	392	238.1	57.1	468	$5.39	$13.48	$38,785	2.2	2.34	1.22	19.9
2034	231,290	414	240.1	57.5	478	$5.61	$14.00	$38,933	2.3	2.36	1.26	20.0
2035	233,885	423	242.0	58.0	513	$5.82	$14.54	$39,050	2.4	2.39	1.31	20.1
2036	236,524	459	243.8	58.5	541	$6.03	$15.06	$39,100	2.3	2.41	1.35	20.2
2037	239,195	485	245.5	59.0	565	$6.23	$15.56	$39,102	2.2	2.44	1.40	20.3
2038	241,907	522	247.2	59.6	562	$6.42	$16.10	$39,174	2.1	2.46	1.45	20.3
2039	244,635	535	248.8	60.1	577	$6.60	$16.62	$39,171	2.1	2.49	1.50	20.4
2040	247,376	544	250.3	60.7	620	$6.81	$17.20	$39,158	2.3	2.52	1.55	20.5
2041	250,180	603	251.9	61.3	570	$7.04	$17.83	$39,189	2.5	2.54	1.61	20.6
2042	252,918	546	253.4	61.8	561	$7.26	$18.49	$39,287	2.3	2.57	1.66	20.6
2043	255,645	537	255.0	62.4	606	$7.49	$19.15	$39,363	2.3	2.60	1.72	20.7
2044	258,430	597	256.6	63.0	631	$7.72	$19.84	$39,464	2.2	2.63	1.78	20.7
2045	261,248	633	258.1	63.6	655	$7.94	$20.50	$39,512	2.1	2.66	1.84	20.8
2046	264,102	667	259.7	64.2	604	$8.19	$21.23	$39,593	2.2	2.69	1.91	20.8
2047	266,893	609	261.2	64.8	596	$8.44	$21.98	$39,654	2.3	2.72	1.98	20.8
2048	269,676	603	262.8	65.4	567	$8.70	$22.77	$39,771	2.3	2.75	2.04	20.8
2049	272,420	572	264.4	66.0	560	$8.98	$23.59	$39,828	2.4	2.78	2.12	20.9
2050	275,159	570	265.9	66.5	531	$9.27	$24.46	$39,905	2.5	2.81	2.19	20.9

Population Growth
2000 - 2050
percent change

New Residential Units
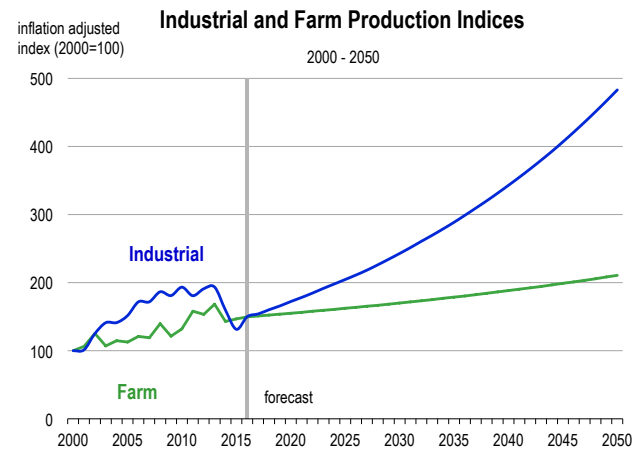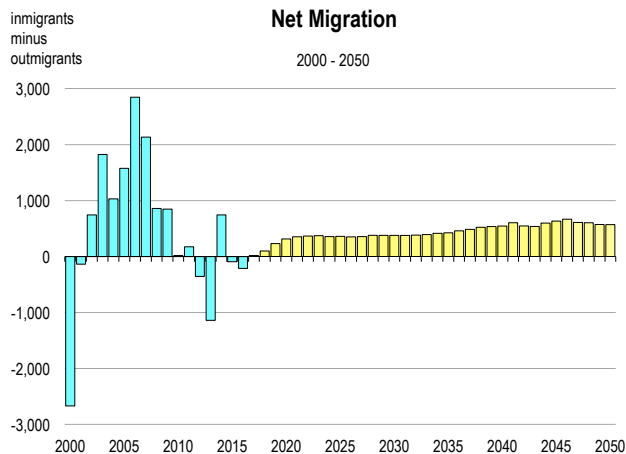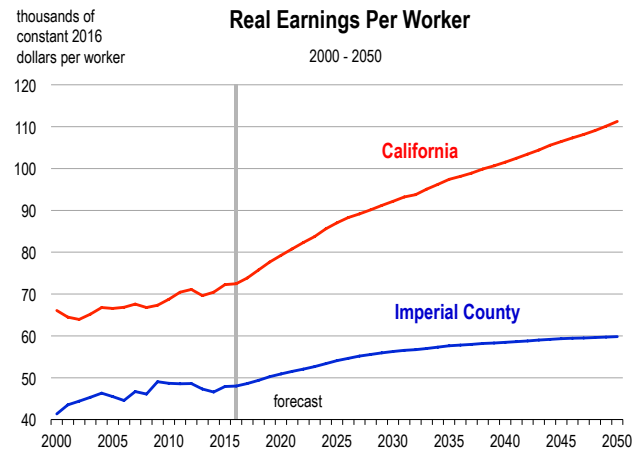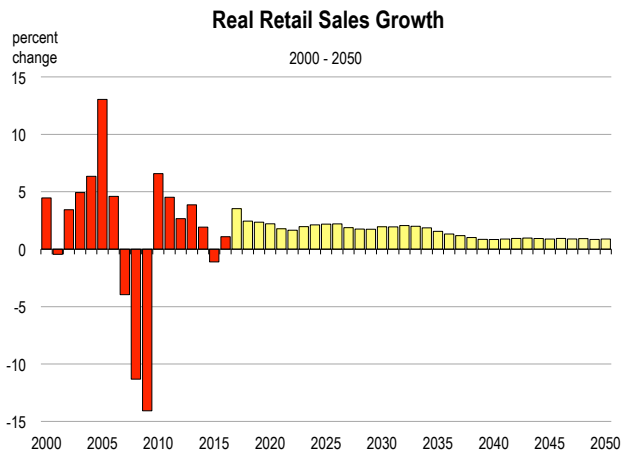2000 - 2050
units permitted

Imperial County Employment Forecast
2010-2016 History, 2017-2050 Forecast

	Total Wage & Salary	Farm	Construction	Manufac- turing	Transportation & Utilities	Wholesale & Retail Trade	Financial Activities	Professional Services	Information	Health & Education	Leisure	Government
					--------------employment (thousands of jobs)------------------							
2010	57.8	9.1	1.2	2.6	1.8	8.6	1.3	2.4	0.4	7.9	3.3	18.4
2011	58.9	10.4	1.4	2.6	1.8	8.7	1.3	2.5	0.4	7.6	3.4	18.1
2012	60.3	10.7	1.5	2.6	1.8	9.1	1.4	2.7	0.4	7.7	3.6	17.9
2013	61.9	10.9	2.0	2.5	2.0	9.3	1.5	2.6	0.3	8.3	3.9	17.7
2014	63.9	12.2	2.3	1.7	2.1	9.9	1.5	2.6	0.3	8.6	4.0	17.9
2015	64.6	13.1	2.6	1.2	2.1	10.0	1.5	2.3	0.3	8.8	4.2	17.9
2016	63.7	11.7	1.8	1.3	2.4	9.9	1.4	2.3	0.3	9.1	4.4	18.3
2017	65.0	11.6	1.8	1.3	2.4	10.2	1.4	2.3	0.3	9.5	4.5	18.7
2018	65.9	11.5	1.9	1.4	2.5	10.3	1.4	2.3	0.3	10.0	4.5	19.0
2019	67.0	11.5	1.9	1.4	2.5	10.4	1.4	2.3	0.3	10.4	4.5	19.4
2020	68.2	11.5	1.9	1.5	2.5	10.5	1.4	2.4	0.3	10.9	4.6	19.8
2021	69.2	11.6	1.8	1.5	2.6	10.6	1.4	2.4	0.3	11.3	4.6	20.1
2022	70.0	11.7	1.8	1.5	2.6	10.7	1.4	2.4	0.3	11.7	4.7	20.2
2023	71.0	11.7	1.8	1.6	2.6	10.8	1.4	2.4	0.3	12.1	4.7	20.5
2024	71.9	11.8	1.8	1.6	2.6	11.0	1.4	2.4	0.3	12.4	4.8	20.7
2025	72.8	11.9	1.8	1.6	2.6	11.1	1.4	2.4	0.3	12.7	4.9	20.9
2026	73.7	12.0	1.8	1.7	2.6	11.2	1.4	2.4	0.3	13.1	4.9	21.1
2027	74.5	12.0	1.8	1.7	2.6	11.3	1.4	2.4	0.3	13.4	5.0	21.4
2028	75.4	12.1	1.9	1.8	2.7	11.5	1.4	2.4	0.3	13.7	5.0	21.6
2029	76.2	12.2	1.9	1.8	2.7	11.6	1.4	2.4	0.3	13.9	5.1	21.8
2030	77.0	12.3	1.9	1.8	2.7	11.7	1.4	2.5	0.3	14.2	5.1	22.0
2031	77.7	12.4	1.9	1.8	2.7	11.8	1.4	2.5	0.3	14.4	5.1	22.1
2032	78.4	12.4	1.9	1.9	2.8	12.0	1.4	2.5	0.3	14.6	5.2	22.3
2033	79.0	12.5	1.9	1.9	2.8	12.1	1.4	2.5	0.3	14.8	5.2	22.4
2034	79.6	12.6	1.9	1.9	2.8	12.2	1.4	2.5	0.3	15.0	5.2	22.5
2035	80.1	12.7	1.9	2.0	2.8	12.3	1.4	2.5	0.3	15.1	5.2	22.6
2036	80.7	12.8	1.9	2.0	2.8	12.4	1.4	2.5	0.3	15.3	5.2	22.7
2037	81.3	12.9	1.9	2.0	2.8	12.5	1.4	2.5	0.3	15.4	5.2	22.8
2038	81.8	13.0	1.9	2.1	2.9	12.6	1.4	2.5	0.3	15.6	5.2	23.0
2039	82.3	13.1	1.9	2.1	2.9	12.7	1.4	2.5	0.3	15.7	5.3	23.0
2040	82.8	13.2	1.9	2.1	2.9	12.7	1.4	2.6	0.3	15.9	5.3	23.1
2041	83.3	13.3	1.9	2.1	2.9	12.8	1.4	2.6	0.3	16.0	5.3	23.2
2042	83.8	13.4	1.9	2.2	2.9	12.9	1.4	2.6	0.3	16.1	5.3	23.4
2043	84.3	13.5	1.9	2.2	3.0	13.0	1.4	2.6	0.3	16.2	5.3	23.5
2044	84.8	13.6	1.9	2.2	3.0	13.0	1.4	2.6	0.3	16.3	5.3	23.6
2045	85.3	13.7	1.9	2.3	3.0	13.1	1.4	2.6	0.3	16.5	5.3	23.7
2046	85.9	13.8	1.9	2.3	3.0	13.2	1.4	2.6	0.3	16.6	5.3	23.8
2047	86.4	13.9	1.9	2.3	3.0	13.3	1.4	2.6	0.3	16.7	5.3	24.0
2048	87.0	14.0	1.9	2.4	3.1	13.3	1.4	2.6	0.3	16.8	5.3	24.1
2049	87.4	14.1	1.9	2.4	3.1	13.4	1.4	2.6	0.3	16.9	5.4	24.2
2050	88.0	14.2	1.9	2.4	3.1	13.5	1.4	2.6	0.3	17.0	5.4	24.3

Manufacturing Employment
2000 - 2050
thousands of jobs

Employment in Professional Services
2000 - 2050
thousands of jobs

Real Retail Sales Growth

2000 - 2050

Real Earnings Per Worker

2000 - 2050

Net Migration

2000 - 2050

Industrial and Farm Production Indices

2000 - 2050

County Economic and Demographic Indicators

Projected Economic Growth (2017-2022)

Expected retail sales growth:	10.9%
Expected job growth:	7.7%
Fastest growing jobs sector:	Education and Healthcare
Expected personal income growth:	12.6%

Expected population growth:	6.2%
Net migration to account for:	11.6%
Expected growth in number of vehicles:	7.2%

Demographics (2017)

Unemployment rate (April 2017):	19.2%
County rank* in California (58 counties):	58th
Working age (16-64) population:	62.2%

Population with B.A. or higher:	14.0%
Median home selling price (2016):	$204,500
Median household income:	$42,415

Quality of Life

Violent crime rate (2015):	387 per 100,000 persons
County rank* in California (58 counties):	32nd
Average commute time to work (2017):	23 minutes

High School drop out rate (2016):	4.1%
Households at/below poverty line (2017):	20.3%

* The county ranked 1st corresponds to the lowest rate in California